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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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REPORT NO. 50X1

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 26 Jan. 1955

SUBJECT East German and Soviet Surveying
and Mapping

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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This information was obtained by a Department of the Army interrogator with the assistance of the 560th Engineer Detachment TIC. It is forwarded essentially as received.

1. During source's course of instruction at the mining school in Freiberg (N 50-55, E 13-22), Saxony, only World War II maps of 1:25,000, 1:10,000, and 1:5,000 scales were used. These maps were very old, with the most recent corrected in 1942. Surveying instruction was supplemented by field exercises in which only the German, Zeiss Model 1930, transit (theodolite) was used.

Soviet and German Transits

2. During the period of time source was a topographer with Wismut A.G., he was required to work with Soviet nationals employed there as civilian topographers. These Soviets used a Soviet-manufactured transit. Source was only able to identify the transit as having been made in Moscow and designated "Model 1950". In comparing the Soviet transit with the German transit, the Soviet model weighed about the same but was about 20 cm shorter. The Soviet model was greatly inferior to the German model. Inaccuracies were as much as one minute on the Soviet model, whereas, the inaccuracy of the German model was only fifteen seconds. The sighting lens of the Soviet model could only reach distances of three to four kilometers, while that of the German model could reach six kilometers. The cross-hairs on the sighting lens of the Soviet model were very fuzzy.

Surveying Methods

3. Soviet topographers and German topographers both used the Gauss-Krueger method for surveying but the actual field mapping (1:10,000) was accomplished by two independent methods. The German topographers used the Tachometer Aufnahme method (measuring the objects in the field, making notes thereon, and drawing the area from the notes taken in the field

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after returning to the office). The Soviet topographers used a Messstische Aufnahme-method in which everything was drawn in on the field. Source strongly believed the German method was much better and stated that the German topographers, who worked with the Soviet topographers, were required to know both methods, therefore, his evaluation was the result of personal experience.

Maps

4. During the periods source made surveys along the border of East and West Germany, he was issued two sets of maps of the area. The German set (1:25,000) was a black-and-white printing of World War II maps which had been used by the German Army. The second set was a multi-colored (also 1:25,000) map with each city, village, and man-made object on it identified in Russian and German. Source believed that this was also a World War II map but did not know if the maps had been printed in the USSR or in Germany or by whom they were published. The color representations were not always correct and differences were also noted in map representations of objects or areas which were changed or no longer in existence. These differences included forests which had been destroyed, houses, factories, and mill locations which had been changed because of World War II, and new construction which had been completed since the end of the war.
5. Soviet military personnel in the border area also had these multi-colored maps. Source often reported to Soviet unit-command posts in the area and spoke with the Soviet guards. During these periods, he noticed the maps on the walls of the command-post buildings and when he asked Soviet soldiers for road directions, the soldiers used the same type of map to orient him.

Surveying Program

6. Until 1951, very limited surveying of unmapped areas within East Germany had been initiated. After 1951, the Ministry of Interior initiated a re-survey program of East Germany on a 1:5,000 scale. This program was divided among the five different states (Laender) and each state was responsible for mapping its own area. In 1952 or 1953, when East Germany was re-divided into districts, each district established a mapping office and was responsible for establishing mapping teams to survey its area. The entire project, believed to be directed from the Construction and Planning Section of the Ministry of the Interior (Abteilung Bau und Planung), was supposed to be so important that it was common knowledge among surveying personnel that the surveying of East Germany would come under a separate state secretariat in the near future. Source believed that the new secretariat would be established in 1955 or early 1956, that the entire East German survey-mapping program would last about six years, and that the project would be completed by 1956. He believed that Buchholz (fnu), professor at a technical university in Dresden, and a Karl Luedermann, of Freiberg, were the directors of the program.

Triangulation Points

7. New triangulation points were established in the Thuringian, East German, and West German border areas but source was unable to identify them. The old triangulation points were in very bad condition because entire structures had been dismantled, destroyed, or moved in the chaos which followed World War II.

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1. for biographic information on these Soviet civilian topographers.

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